

make sure families have more money in their pockets, the best thing—the best thing—we can do is pass Build Back Better.

Seventeen Nobel Prize-winning economists—and more from both sides of the political spectrum—have said that this bill will help relieve inflationary pressures over the long term.

And this morning, an exclusive by Reuters confirmed that, for all the Republicans howling at the Moon about inflation, Build Back Better will not—will not—increase inflation.

And here is what the leading economist at Moody's said:

The bills do not add to inflation pressures, as the policies help to lift long-term economic growth via stronger productivity and labor force growth, and thus take the edge off inflation.

Stronger growth, less inflation. I will say it again: If you want to fight inflation, if you want to lower costs and grow the economy, support Build Back Better. If you want to fight inflation, support Build Back Better.

Build Back Better is going to help families save money by making childcare more affordable. It is going to give parents a tax break so they can pay for diapers and groceries and gas. It is going to lower the cost of prescription drugs, like insulin and cancer treatments; and it is going to put more Americans to work, help our economy grow in the long term.

The American people want these things.

Why won't a single Republican come out and vote for them—a single Republican? Why do Republicans seem so intent on opposing lowering the price of insulin or giving parents a middle-class tax break?

Given the choice between helping families afford childcare and leaving them to fend for themselves, Republicans are telling families: You are on your own.

Listen to the list of things I just mentioned: middle-class tax breaks, lowering prescription drug costs, childcare. These aren't handouts. These aren't luxury items. To so many families, they are daily essentials, and they are just the beginning of what the BBB would offer.

While Democrats are fighting to pass legislation to lower costs, Republicans, who spent years under Donald Trump trying to repeal healthcare and give tax breaks to the ultrarich, are opposing tax cuts to the middle class while rooting for prices to go up and up—a gold mine.

Americans won't forget who in Washington is fighting for them and who is spending their time trying to exploit their hardships.

KIGALI AMENDMENT

Finally, the Kigali Amendment. Yesterday, the Senate received a message from the White House calling for us to approve a treaty amendment that will curb our country's use of dangerous hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs.

Commonly known as the Kigali Amendment, 120 countries have agreed

to the amendment. Even China is on the list. We should join it too.

HFCs are dangerous greenhouse chemicals found in everyday appliances from air-conditioners to refrigerators. They are thousands of times more damaging to our atmosphere than carbon dioxide. We had made progress in eliminating these chemicals before the Trump administration characteristically, unfortunately, took us backwards.

Phasing out these HFCs is very important and will go a long way in fighting climate change and protecting the environment for future generations. And it is supported by the business community too, as it will open up companies to markets for HFC alternatives overseas, promoting investment, innovation, and greater economic activity.

Approving this amendment will require two-thirds of the Senate. Reducing our country's use of HFCs has been a bipartisan priority in the past. In fact, last December, the Senate approved the first-ever agreement to phase down HFCs—a significant win for fighting the climate crisis. It should be a bipartisan priority right now.

In the wake of the President's visit to Glasgow, approving this amendment—which much of the world already embraces—is essential for telling the world we are committed to fighting the climate crisis. If we want to lead the world on this issue, it must—it must—get done.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4350

Now, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4350 occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, a lot has gone wrong since this unified Democratic government took the reins back in January.

Let's take a look at foreign policy. The Biden administration's clumsy retreat from Afghanistan left Americans behind, who wanted out, and handed the country to a government staffed with terrorists that used to be locked up at Guantanamo Bay.

Let's take a look at energy independence. Or should I say energy dependence? President Biden canceled our

own Keystone XL Pipeline but cleared the path for a new pipeline for Vladimir Putin. The amount of Russian oil that America has to import has already nearly doubled on the Democrats' watch.

Look at the border. Illegal crossers are flooding across our southern border at an all-time high. The Democrats have interior enforcement arrests down to a decade low.

But there is no question what crisis is at the top of the minds of middle-class Americans. There is no question what is keeping working Americans awake at night. It is inflation. Inflation. The runaway prices and unpredictability that Democrats' policies have fueled.

Ninety percent of Americans told one recent survey that they are somewhat or extremely concerned with inflation. We are a huge and diverse country. It is hard to get 9 in 10 Americans to agree on almost anything, but less than 1 year under Democrat policies, 90 percent of America is worried about inflation.

And it is no wonder. Year on year, consumer prices have risen faster than they have in over three decades. Last month marked the fifth month in a row that inflation has topped 5 percent.

These across-the-board numbers can sound a little abstract, so let's make it very tangible. In the past year, buying meat, fish, and eggs has gotten 12 percent more expensive. A gallon of gas costs the average American \$1.31 than it did a year ago. And heaven forbid anyone having to replace a family car this year; used auto prices are up 26 percent.

Even getting family and friends together for Thanksgiving is a much pricier prospect than it was last year. Turkey alone is an extra 25 cents per pound. Factor in all the fixings, and some estimates project a feast next week will run families up to 15 percent more than it did last year.

For a while, the White House tried to downplay the problem. President Biden and his team told American families that costs weren't really rising as much as it seemed; or that, OK, costs were rising, but it would only last a few months; or, as some liberals argued, that if you remove food costs, housing costs, and transportation costs from the equation, inflation really wasn't all that bad.

Some have tried to argue that rampant inflation is actually a high-class problem to have because at least we aren't in a recession. I am not kidding. I guess they think working Americans should stop complaining and be grateful things aren't even worse.

But a sad irony is that inflation is exactly the opposite of a high-class problem. Inflation is like a huge, regressive tax hike that hits the middle class, the working class, and the poor far more than it hurts wealthy people.

The three biggest drivers of the staggering 6.2 percent inflation rate we

logged last month were housing, transportation, and food. These are not luxuries, they are essentials, and they take up a much bigger share of families' budgets from the middle class on down.

The Democrats' inflation is functioning like an ultrapunitive tax on American families who can least afford it—exactly the opposite of a “high-class problem.”

It didn't have to be this way. The inflation spike wasn't just predictable; it was, in fact, predicted. This past spring, I warned my Democratic colleagues right here on the floor that their unbelievably expensive and poorly targeted spending bill that masqueraded as COVID relief would turn our strong economic recovery into an inflationary mess. Many of my Republican colleagues said the same thing. But Democrats didn't have to take our word for it; even their own favorite liberal economists, like President Clinton's Treasury Secretary Larry Summers and President Obama's CEA Chairman Jason Furman warned that liberal bill might supercharge inflation.

Now, our Democratic colleagues want to ram through another, even bigger, reckless taxing-and-spending spree that would make inflation even worse. Many of those same liberal economists support this new spending spree because of all the leftwing goodies that are packed into it, but even they largely admit—these who support this new leftwing proposal—even they admit the package would make inflation even worse next year.

Steven Rattner, a senior economic adviser to President Obama, just wrote in the New York Times that “The original sin”—the original sin—“was the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. . . . That has contributed materially to today's inflation levels.” He goes on to say that Democrats' new taxing-and-spending spree “can be deemed ‘paid for’ only if one embraces budget gimmicks, like assuming that some of the most important initiatives will be allowed to expire in just a few years. The result [is] a package that front-loads spending while tax revenues only arrive over [the course] of a decade.” Mr. Rattner cites an outside estimate that “the plan would likely add \$800 billion or more to the deficit over the next five years, exacerbating inflationary pressures.”

Now, the person I just quoted is a former top adviser to President Obama—by definition a liberal Democrat—explaining that the Democrats' new proposal as currently constituted would make inflation worse—worse. He says it is the Democrats' proposal itself that needs to be built back better.

President Biden and his party have already brought needless pain on American families with their reckless spending. Ramming through another multitrillion-dollar, partisan wish list would only compound the damage. The

hard-working men and women of this country cannot afford to be guinea pigs in a socialist experiment where Democrats try to inflate their way out of inflation.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 463, Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

Charles E. Schumer, Chris Van Hollen, John Hickenlooper, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Duckworth, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher Murphy, Martin Heinrich, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Michael F. Bennet, Ron Wyden, Raphael Warnock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brian Eddie Nelson, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 471 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Whereupon, Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Whereupon, Mr. LUJÁN assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being evenly divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 144, H.R. 4350, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERPOL

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, this Saturday, the International Criminal Police Organization, better known as INTERPOL, will begin its annual General Assembly in Istanbul.

INTERPOL is a vital global law enforcement network that helps police from different countries cooperate with each other to control crime. Unfortunately, it has also become a tool in the hands of despots and crooks who seek to punish dissidents and political opponents in an effort to turn other countries' law enforcement against the rule of law.

Rooting out this sort of abuse should be the top priority going into the INTERPOL General Assembly. These abuses make a mockery of INTERPOL and are threatening its continued existence.

INTERPOL's Constitution cites the universal declaration of human rights as the basis for police cooperation. Importantly and significantly, Article 3 of that declaration forbids INTERPOL from engaging in any “activities of a political, military, religious or racial character.”